

From: Sonja Reinhardt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 9:40pm
Subject: microsoft settlement

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

The antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft has gone on for too long and has been a waste of taxpayers dollars. The original reason for the lawsuits I thought was to protect consumer rights. But instead, under the terms of the settlement it seems that only competitors of Microsoft have made out.

The terms state that Microsoft will not be able to retaliate against computer makers or software developers who develop or promote software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. The terms also force Microsoft to disclose numerous technological secrets to its competitors. These concessions only give competition a chance to gain an edge on Microsoft ñ an edge they could not accomplish without lobbying politicians and lawmakers.

This case has gone on for too long and it is time to settle. It is in everyone's interests to end this matter so that the IT sector can rebound from its dormant state. Thank you and I ask your help in finalizing the agreement.

Sincerely,

Sonja Reinhardt
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